## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOTE-00 ACDA-12 OPR-02 /087 W

-----051541 040917Z/10

P R 021742Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8962
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEC

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: HUGE METALWORKER RALLY UNMARRED BY VIOLENCE

**REF: ROME 19758** 

- 1. METALWORKERS' FEDERATION FLM SUCCESSFULLY HELD ITS GIANT MARCH AND RALLY IN ROME DECEMBER 2. FLM ESTIMATES PARTICIPATION AT 200,000. AS OF 1600, DEC. 2, ONLY VIOLENCE REPORTED IS SCUFFLE BETWEEN "AUTONOMIST" STUDENTS AND POLICE WHO USED TEAR GAS AND CHARGED STUDENTS WHILE SUCCESSFULLY BOTTLING THEM UP IN UNIVERSITY AND PREVENTING THEM FROM DISRUPTING RALLY. STUDENTS MAY AGAIN TRY TO BREAK OUT OF UNIVERSITY LATER TODAY.
- 2. IN MAIN SPEECH CARRIED LIVE ON NATIONWIDE TV, COMMUNIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIOM/CGIL LEADER PIO GALI REPEATED ALL UNION THEMES REPORTED REFTEL, BUT STRESSED THEME OF DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY AND OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM. CGIL CHIEF LUCIANO LAMA ALSO STRESSED THIS THEME IN TV INTERVIEW AS COVERAGE ENDED, SUGGESTING THAT GOI HELP UNIONS TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM BY TAKING ECONOMIC ACTION TO EXPAND EMPLOYMENT. IMMENSE CROWD, INCLUDING STUDENT

PARTICIPANTS, WAS ORDERLY AND CALMLY ENTHUSIASTIC. STUDENTS HELD ALOFT BANNER SAYING "SACK ANDREOTTI", BUT WERE OTHERWISE INOFFENSIVE.

3. COMMENT. CGIL-CISL-UIL FEDERATION (CCU) AND FLM LEADER-SHIP, PARTICULARLY CGIL COMMUNISTS, ARE PRESUMABLY HAPPY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE MILITANT RANK-AND-FILE LET OFF STEAM AND RELEASE TENSIONS WITHOUT UNTOWARD INCIDENT, PROJECTING THE BENEVOLENT IMAGE OF DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRACY AGAINST EXTREMIST VIOLENCE. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

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